38. (New) A purified protein encoded by an open reading frame of the virus of claim 36.

cont. A1

39. (New) A purified protein of claim 38, wherein the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an amino acid sequence shown in odd numbered sequences of SEQ ID NOS:3-165; and

(b) amino acid sequences that differ from those specified in (a) by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions wherein the function of the protein is preserved.

40. (New) A purified protein with an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% sequence identity to the sequences specified in claim 39.

41. (New) The purified protein of claim 39, wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from odd numbered sequences within the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:3-19 and 23-165.

42. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein according to claim 39.

43. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42, wherein the molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of even numbered sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2-164.

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44. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 43, wherein the molecule comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of even numbered sequences of SEQ ID NOS:2-18 and 22-164.

cont. A1

45. (New) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42.

46. (New) A cell transformed with a recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42.

47. (New) A non-human mammal purposefully infected with the virus of claim 36.

Subc1

48. (New) The mammal of claim 47, wherein the mammal is a primate.

49. (New) An oligonucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of the virus of claim 36;

(b) at least 30 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of the virus of claim 36; and

(c) at least 50 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleic acid sequence of the virus of claim 36.

50. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein of claim 40.

51. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein of claim 40.

Sub A1

52. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding all proteins encoded by the virus of claim 36, and having a biological activity of an RRV virus.

Cont. A1

53. (New) A method for testing the efficacy of a drug in the treatment of a condition associated with the virus of claim 36, the method comprising:

(a) administering the drug to a non-human primate infected with the virus of claim 36; and

(b) observing the primate to determine if the drug prevents or reduces the presentation of one or more symptoms associated with viral infection.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the primate is immunocompromised.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the drug is for the treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma and lymphoproliferative disorders.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the primate is immuno-compromised as a result of infection by Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV).

57. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the condition associated with infection with the virus is one or more of B-cell hyperplasia, lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, hypergammaglobinulinemia or autoimmune hemolytic anemia.

58. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein the non-human primate is a Rhesus macaque monkey.

59. (New) A method for producing a non-human primate model for testing potential treatments for a condition associated an infection with the virus of claim 36, comprising

(a) administering a treatment to the primate to render the primate immunocompromised; and

(b) infecting the primate with the virus of claim 36.

cont. A1

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the condition is Kaposi's sarcoma and lymphoproliferative disorders.

Subc1

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the treatment used to render the primate immuno-compromised is infection with SIV.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the non-human primate is a Rhesus macaque monkey.

63. (New) A method for testing the efficacy of a candidate vaccine against the virus of claim 36, or conditions associated infection with the virus of claim 36, the method comprising:

(a) administering the vaccine to a subject capable of infection with the virus of claim 36;

(b) inoculating the subject with the virus; and

(c) observing the subject to determine if the vaccine prevents or reduces an incidence of viral infection or presentation of one or more conditions associated with the viral infection.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the subject is a primate.

65. (New) The method of claim 64, wherein the primate is a non-human primate.

cont A1

66. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the primate is immunocompromised.

67. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the conditions associated with infection include B-cell hyperplasia, lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly, hypergammaglobinulinemia or autoimmune hemolytic anemia.

68. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the non-human primate is a Rhesus macaque monkey.

CONCLUSION

No new matter is added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination. If any minor matters remain to be addressed prior to examination, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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